

R E M A R K S

The claims have been amended by rewriting claim 1, canceling claim 16, and adding no new claims. Claims 1-8 remain in the application. Claims 9-15 and 17-25 are withdrawn.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection - Informalities:

Claim 8 was objected to because of confusion of the meaning of the claim. Applicant believes, upon studying both office actions, that the changes made in this amendment to claim 8 should provide the desired clarity. The aspects of claim 8 are detailed below with reference to FIG. 7.

Claim 8 introduces an element, a mask ("the device further comprises a mask"), which is represented in FIG. 7 as being above a solar cell. The first part of claim 8 states that the solar cell has "a light receiving inactive surface (e.g., FRN 74) that has a different color than the substantially uniform dark-colored active light-receiving surface (e.g. 15A, 15B) of the solar cell. The second part of the claim refers to the aperture (FRN 72, FRN 73) and surface (FRN 71) of the mask. Thus, the reference in the second part of the claim element is that the mask has surfaces that substantially match the substantially uniform dark-colored light-receiving active surface of the solar cell.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,367) inview of Kobayashi et al. (Kobayashi) (U.S. Patent No. 5,686,017).

Applicants respectfully traverse Examiner's combination of Kazaki and Kobayashi as being acceptable for rejecting Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 1 in the version presented in Applicant's most recent response, and as presented in Applicant's present response. The Examiner proposes "adapt[ing] the polymer dispersed liquid crystal material as disclosed by Kobayashi to the display device of Kazaki to provide a novel PDLC display element having brighter display quality, particularly in bright ambient light as well as to provide less fluorescence and haze effect while improving the overall display contrast". There would be no motivation for this proposed combination because it would result in a display panel having a polymer dispersed display panel (Kobayashi) disposed in front of a diffuser light source (items 2 and 3 of FIG. 11 of Kozaki) and a liquid crystal shutter item 4 of FIG. 1 of Kozaki), which would not serve beneficial purposes. The diffuser light source combined with the closed shutter would reduce the on/off pixel contrast and of the polymer dispersed display and add undesirable cost. The light shutter would undesirably diminish the amount of energy recovered by the solar cell (item 5 of FIG. 1 of Kozaki) because it would not recover light when the display was on (Kozaki, col. 3, lines 36-42), and it would add undesirable cost. Thus, it would not achieve the objectives quoted from Kozaki, column 4, lines 5-27.

Therefore, the Kozaki and Kobayashi references teach away from being combined and the combination is accordingly non-obvious.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 1 is patentable, and that claims 2-8, which depend on claim 1, are also patentable.

Applicant notes that any amendments or claim cancellations made herein and not substantively discussed above are made solely for the purposes of more clearly and particularly describing and claiming the invention, and not for purposes of overcoming art. The Examiner should infer no (i) adoption of a position with respect to patentability, (ii) change in the Applicant's position with respect to any claim or subject matter of the invention, or (iii) acquiescence in any way to any position taken by the Examiner, based on such amendments or cancellations not substantively discussed. Furthermore, any remarks made herein with respect to a given claim or amendment are intended only in the context of that specific claim or amendment, and should not be applied to other claims, amendments, or aspects of Applicant's invention.

Applicant specifically reserves the right to prosecute claims of differing and broader scope than those presented herein, in a continuation application.

Accordingly, this application is believed to be in proper form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 502117.

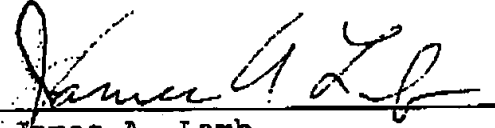
Respectfully submitted,

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